

 Volunteer Opportunity

 Heart-Healthy Program

bloomington.in.gov/parks



## Eco Outpost at Griffy Lake

### Eco Outpost

Looking for a fun, new way to interact with the great outdoors? Visit the Eco Outpost, a hands-on place to explore nature. Check out our display of natural objects like fossils, pine cones, and seashells, and learn how you can earn Eco Bucks that can be traded for any of the objects in the Outpost's collection.

*The Eco Outpost is open during boathouse hours:*  
**April—Saturdays and Sundays only 9 a.m.–6 p.m.**

### Explorer Backpack Program

Stop by the Eco Outpost at the Griffy Lake boathouse and borrow an Explorer Backpack to help you discover the wonders of nature around Griffy Lake. The backpack is filled with activities and guides that will help you and your family explore the wildlife, plants and natural features of Griffy Lake. Backpacks are free to use and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Scour the Parks for Sasquatch ... and a Yeti

**Attention all citizens. A Sasquatch has once again been spotted in our area, and this time he's not alone.**

He told his relatives about all of his adventures in Bloomington and a Yeti decided that he wanted in on the fun. Each of them has been working with the Parks and Recreation Department to set up their own unique treasure hunt spread out across City parks and facilities. Interested teams can register to join the search and pick up their treasure hunting packets at the Parks and Recreation office. Registration cost is per team. **Registration is ongoing, so you can join the hunt at any time.**

### Yeti's Treasure Hunt:

Since this is his first time visiting Bloomington, the Yeti has designed a hunt more focused on the fun of exploring the City than on solving complicated riddles. If you have a team with a lot of younger members or prefer to search at a more leisurely pace, then the Yeti's hunt is for you. He is offering a reward to every team that manages to complete his hunt.

**5/1–8/31 • For all ages.**  
**\$10/in-city, \$12/non-city**





### Sasquatch's Treasure Hunt:

The Sasquatch loves playing tricks and has designed another challenging hunt this year. If you enjoy difficult puzzles, then you are in the right place. He is offering a reward to every team that manages to complete his hunt and is offering an extra reward to the team that completes his hunt first.

**5/1–8/31 • For all ages.**  
**\$10/in-city, \$12/non-city**

## Nature Sounds

Immerse yourself in this unique listening experience that pairs acoustic music with songs of the wild. Each concert is followed by a guided nature walk.

**Thursdays • 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

**April 16 • Frog calls**  
Musical act: Daily Bread & Butter  
Griffy Lake Boathouse


**May 21 • Bats**  
Musical act: Colleen Haas  
RCA Community Park Large Shelter

**June 18 • Bird songs**  
Musical act: Valeria DeCastro  
Harris Ford bridge on the Clear Creek Trail.



**September 17 • Insects**  
Musical act: Janiece Jaffe  
Lower Cascades Park  
Waterfall Shelter

**Sponsored by:**  
  
on the square downtown  
Bloomington, Indiana

For more information, visit [bloomington.in.gov/parks](http://bloomington.in.gov/parks).



## Become a CITIZEN SCIENTIST



Be part of important research that will help scientists gain a better understanding of our environment! Participate with us in gathering data for several national surveys. Stop by for one session or take part in each activity. No prior experience or science background is needed—just a willingness to learn and help gather crucial data. Information and instructions on how to conduct each survey and all survey materials are provided. Each survey takes less than 30 minutes, and naturalists will be available after the surveys if participants would like additional information.

**FREE • For all ages.**

### Firefly Watch

Fireflies may be disappearing from the landscape. Surveys that count and identify firefly species are conducted to learn about the geographic distribution of fireflies, their activity during the summer, and the effects that human-made lights and pesticides have on them. Surveys take place the first Wednesday of the month.

**W 6/3 • 9:30–10:30 p.m.**  
**W 7/8 • 9:30–10:30 p.m.**  
**W 8/5 • 9–10 p.m.**

**Bryan Park, 1001 S. Henderson St.—Woodlawn Shelter**

### Project Budburst

Shifts in climate can affect the timing of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of plants. These shifts have an impact not only on plant communities but also the animal species that depend on them. Observations of several focal species at different times of the year will help to track these plant phenophases.

**Th 6/4 • 6:30–7:30 p.m.**  
**Winslow Woods Park, 2120 S. Highland Ave.**

**Th 6/11 • 6:30–7:30 p.m. • Bryan Park, 1001 S. Henderson St.—Woodlawn Shelter**

**Th 7/9 • 7:30–8:30 p.m.**  
**Winslow Woods Park, 2120 S. Highland Ave.**

**F 7/10 • 7:30–8:30 p.m. • Bryan Park, 1001 S. Henderson St.—Woodlawn Shelter**

### Celebrate Urban Birds

Urban green spaces can provide important habitats for many species. Celebrate Urban Birds collects survey data on 16 focal bird species to understand how different environments influence the location of birds in urban areas. Participants will observe designated areas for these focal species.

**Th 5/14 • 6:30–7:30 p.m. • Bryan Park, 1001 S. Henderson St.—Woodlawn Shelter**

**Tu 5/19 • 6:30–7:30 p.m. • Miller-Showers Park**  
**Sa 6/6 • 2–3 p.m. • Miller-Showers Park**

**Th 6/11 • 7:30–8:30 p.m. • Bryan Park, 1001 S. Henderson St.—Woodlawn Shelter**

**Tu 7/14 • 10–11 a.m. • Miller-Showers Park**  
**W 7/15 • 8:30–9:30 p.m. • Bryan Park, 1001 S. Henderson St.—Woodlawn Shelter**

### Worm Watch

Many of Indiana's worms are not native. Non-native worms can negatively alter forest plant and soil structure. During this program, participants will coax worms out of the ground to determine what worm species are found in Bloomington's forested areas.

**Sa 5/16 • 2–3 p.m.**  
**Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, 3300 N. Headley Rd.**

**Tu 6/9 • 11 a.m.–noon • Leonard Springs Nature Park, 4685 S. Leonard Springs Rd.**

**Tu 7/7 • 7–8 p.m. • Lower Cascades Park, 2851 N. Old State Rd. 37**

**Th 8/6 • 6:30–7:30 p.m.**  
**Winslow Woods Park, 2120 S. Highland Ave.**

## Night Paddle

Experience an evening of peace and serenity on Griffy Lake during the full moon. Navigate the lake, take in deep breaths of fresh air and watch the night sky light up the water. Registration is required. Watercraft, paddles, and life jackets are provided. Children under age 14 yrs. must be accompanied by a registered adult. Bring a flashlight to help you navigate back to your vehicle once you return to dry land.

**Su 5/3 • 8:30–10 p.m. • Register by 4/30.**

**Tu 6/2 • 9–10:30 p.m. • Register by 6/1.**

**W 7/1 • 9–10:30 p.m. • Register by 6/30.**

**Sa 8/29 • 8–9:30 p.m. • Register by 8/27.**

**Su 9/27 • 7:30–9 p.m. • Register by 9/24.**

**\$7/in-city, \$8/non-city • For all ages.**

**Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, 3300 N. Headley Rd.**

## Urban Coyotes

Coyotes are incredibly adaptive animals. Native to the prairie regions, coyotes can now be found throughout Indiana, sometimes in our own backyards.

Learn about coyote biology and how to coexist with coyotes in an urban setting.

**Tu 6/2 • 7–8 p.m. • Register by 6/1.**

**\$2/in-city, \$3/non-city • 16 yrs and up.**

**Lower Cascades Park, 2851 N. Old State Rd. 37**

## Sustaining Nature and Your Land Day

Native plants are required to support local ecosystems, but invasive plants are rapidly crowding them out. Sustaining Nature and Your Land (SNAYL) Day provides information about how you can encourage the growth of beautiful, life-supporting native plants on your property while controlling the invasive plants that threaten them. Lunch will be available for purchase.

**Sa 6/6 • 10 a.m.–3 p.m. • FREE • For all ages.**

**Harmony School, 909 E. Second St.**

## Leonard Springs Nature Park Tours

Explore the cave entrances, springs, and wetland area at Leonard Springs Nature Park. Walk the rugged one-mile loop trail and learn about the natural history of the area along the way. Sturdy shoes and a water bottle are recommended.

Parking is limited, so please pre-register for this free program.

**W 6/10 • 6:30–8 p.m. • Register by 6/9.**

**W 8/12 • 6:30–8 p.m. • Register by 8/11.**

**FREE • For ages 8 yrs. and up.**

**Leonard Springs Nature Park, 4685 S. Leonard Springs Rd.**

## Butterflies in Your Backyard



Living works of art, butterflies are not only a joy to watch but also serve an important role in the environment. Learn all about the butterflies you can expect to see in Bloomington, why they are important, and the plants you can grow to attract them to your home, all while touring the butterfly garden at Sherwood Oaks Park.

**Sa 6/13 • 1–2 p.m. • Register by 6/8.**

**\$2/in-city, \$3/non-city • For all ages.**

**Sherwood Oaks Park, 1600 E. Elliston Dr.**

**—Meet behind the tennis courts.**

## Tree ID Walk and Talk

From buds to bark, trees offer many hints as to what species they are. Take a hike into the rich forest at Winslow Woods Park and learn how to identify more than 25 common tree, shrub, and vine species. Learn different methods of identification and characteristics to look for when classifying woody plants. Dress appropriately for the weather and expect to hike (with frequent stops) for about an hour.

**Sa 6/20 • 1–2:30 p.m. • Register by 6/12.**

**\$3/in-city, \$4/non-city • For all ages.**

**Winslow Woods Park, 2120 S. Highland Ave.**

## Bug Fest



Learn all about amazing insects at Bloomington's third annual Bug Fest! Go on an insect safari, handle cool insects, make a craft, and participate in a mealworm race or cricket spitting contest. There will be speakers and information booths on a variety of buggy topics. This event is a collaboration of Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Monroe County Parks and Recreation, The WonderLab Museum, Purdue Extension office, and Hilltop Gardens at Indiana University.

**Sa 6/27 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m. • FREE • For all ages.**

**Hilltop Gardens at Indiana University, 2367 E. 10th St.**

## Fossil Frenzy

Evidence of life from millions of years ago can be found throughout Indiana streams. Join an expedition to search for the prehistory beneath our feet. The program begins with a short introduction on what to look for, followed by a hike (about one mile each way) to Griffy Creek to search the fossil beds. Comfortable, water-resistant footwear is recommended.

**Sa 6/27 • 6-7:30 p.m. • Register by 6/24.**

**Su 6/28 • 6-7:30 p.m. • Register by 6/24 .**

**\$4/in-city, \$5/non-city • For all ages.**

**Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, 3300 N. Headley Rd.**

## Paper Making

Turn recycled paper and natural materials into homemade paper. Participants will make their own paper and learn how to continue creating with simple materials at home. All materials are provided.

**Sa 7/11 • 2–3:30 p.m. • Register by 7/6.**

**\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.**

**Banneker Community Center, 930 W. Seventh St.**

## Compass Treasure Hunt

Learn the basics of navigating the land with a map and compass, then use your new orienteering skills to search Bryan Park for a hidden prize! Compasses are provided.

**Th 7/16 • 6:30–8 p.m. • Register by 7/10.**

**\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For ages 8 yrs and up.**

**Bryan Park, 1001 S. Henderson St.—Woodlawn Shelter**

## Goods From Your Woods

**NEW!**

The forest provides us with so much more than just firewood and lumber. From ginseng to goats, agroforestry (the science of integrating both trees and additional crops for environmental and economic benefit) can be a sustainable and profitable land management practice. Landowners: Come and be inspired by agroforestry ideas for your own property. Whether you own one acre or 200, there is an agroforestry system that can meet your goals. The program begins with a presentation followed by a short walk, where agroforestry applications will be discussed for RCA Community Park.

**Sa 7/18 • 4–5 p.m. • Register by 7/11.**

**\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For ages 18 yrs and up.**

**RCA Community Park, 1400 W. RCA Park Dr.**

## Life in the Lake

**NEW!**

All kinds of creatures large and small lurk beneath the waters of Griffy Lake. Come explore this upland reservoir ecosystem, learn about the organisms that make their homes there, and get up close and personal with a few special guests.

**Sa 7/25 • 10–11 a.m. • Register by 7/20.**

**\$2/in-city, \$3/non-city • For all ages.**

**Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, 3300 N. Headley Rd.**

## Mushroom Foray

Mushroom season does not end with morels! Learn the importance of, how to identify, and how to harvest wild fungi. Participants learn where to search for and how to prepare the many edible wild mushrooms our environment provides. The program begins with a brief introduction of common and easy-to-identify mushrooms, followed by a hike to search for edible fungi. Please dress appropriately for the weather, and come prepared to hike.

**Sa 8/8 • 1–2 p.m. • Register by 7/31.**

**\$4/in-city, \$5/non-city • For all ages.**

**Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, 3300 N. Headley Rd.**

## Summer Stargazing

The nighttime sky is full of amazing stories. Watch a planetarium-style presentation to learn the myths and legends behind summertime constellations, and tricks for easily locating them in the night sky. Bring a blanket or camp chair for comfortable seating and spend some time stargazing at the park.

**F 8/21 • 9–10 p.m. • Register by 8/17.**

**\$4/in-city, \$5/non-city • For all ages.**

**RCA Community Park, 1400 W. RCA Park Dr.**



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
parks and recreation

**For more information, call**

**Elizabeth Tompkins at 812-349-3759 or  
e-mail [tompkine@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:tompkine@bloomington.in.gov).**

**Register at [bloomington.in.gov/parks](http://bloomington.in.gov/parks)  
or at the Parks and Recreation office,  
City Hall, 401 N. Morton St., Ste. 250.**